



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Waterloo Wellington

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Waterloo Wellington



City Council of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

May 21, 2025

To: Mayor Cam Guthrie and Members of Guelph City Council

Re: Support for Staff Report 2025-92 – Addressing Gaps in Daytime Sheltering Options

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors,

As representatives of Guelph's health care sector, we are writing to express our strong support for the recommendations outlined in the staff report titled "*Addressing Gaps in Daytime Sheltering Options for Persons Experiencing Homelessness*" (Report 2025-92), presented at the May 6, 2025, Committee of the Whole.

First, we commend City Council for its leadership in bringing forward this initiative. The gaps in daytime sheltering have been well-documented, and your willingness to act on this urgent issue demonstrates a deep commitment to the dignity, health, and well-being of all members of our community. We applaud your continued investment in solutions that go beyond emergency responses and aim to build a more inclusive and integrated system of care.

As health care providers, we wish to clarify that our organizations will not be delivering daytime shelter services to adults directly. However, we view the establishment of a municipally funded daytime shelter as a critical foundation in the broader service ecosystem. A stable and accessible daytime space will significantly improve opportunities for collaboration across sectors and facilitate the integration of much-needed health and social services—including initiatives like the HART Hub, which provides specialized health and treatment supports to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

In your deliberations regarding potential locations for the proposed daytime services, we respectfully ask that proximity to other essential supports be a central consideration. For many individuals experiencing homelessness, walking is the primary mode of transportation. Locating services within reasonable walking distance of downtown Guelph will reduce barriers to access and enhance the effectiveness of integrated and co-located services.



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We thank you again for your leadership on this file and for recognizing that health, housing, and dignity are inextricably linked. We look forward to continued collaboration as the procurement process unfolds and as the community moves toward a more integrated daytime hub model.

Sincerely,

Melissa Kwiatkowski
Chief Executive Officer
Guelph Community Health Centre

Helen Fishburn
Chief Executive Officer
CMHA Waterloo Wellington

Kristin Kerr
Chief Executive Officer
Stonehenge Therapeutic Community

Kristen Cairney
Executive Director
Wyndham House

Mark Walton
President and CEO
Guelph General Hospital